

Listing of claims

Claim 1 (original): A microwave dryer for drying various materials including:

- (1) a loading section into which the material may be introduced using loading means;
 - (2) a treatment section which is in communication with the loading section;
 - (3) an unloading section which is in communication with the treatment section;
 - (4) a reciprocating ram within said loading section which is capable of pushing the material from said loading section into said treatment section and through said treatment section into said unloading section;
 - (5) a plurality of microwave guides within said treatment section capable of directing microwaves from a microwave generator into the material within said treatment section; and
 - (6) unloading means capable of removing the material from said unloading section;
- whereby material may be loaded into said loading section and pushed into said treatment section by the reciprocating ram; the material treated by microwaves within said treatment section; the treated material further pushed by said reciprocating ram into said unloading section; and the material removed from said unloading section by unloading means.

Claim 2 (original): The microwave dryer of claim 1 in which outside air is introduced into the microwave dryer, passes over the material, and is removed from the microwave dryer.

Claim 3 (original): The microwave dryer of claim 1 in which said treatment section may be tilted at an angle other than level to increase or decrease the flow rate of material through said treatment section.

Claim 4 (original): The microwave dryer of claim 1 in which said loading section, said treatment section, and said unloading section are modular such that the length of the microwave dryer may be adjusted or the various sections stacked vertically to increase the effective length of the microwave dryer.

Claim 5 (original): The microwave dryer of claim 2 in which said treatment section may be tilted at an angle other than level to increase or decrease the flow rate of material through said treatment section.

Claim 6 (original): The microwave dryer of claim 4 in which said treatment section may be tilted at an angle other than level to increase or decrease the flow rate of material through said treatment section.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (original): The microwave dryer of claim 4 in which outside air is introduced into the microwave dryer, passes over the material, and is removed from the microwave dryer.

Claim 9 (original): The microwave dryer of claim 2 in which said treatment section may be tilted at an angle other than level to increase or decrease the flow rate of material through said treatment section; and said loading section, said treatment section, and said unloading section are modular such that the length of the microwave dryer may be adjusted or the various sections stacked vertically to increase the effective length of the microwave dryer.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled)